

FEBRUARY 4, 1825.

Read, and, by order of the House, laid upon the table.

A BILL

*Confirming an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, entitled "An act to confirm an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, entitled 'An act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.'"*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*  
3 *whereas the Legislatures of the States of Virginia and Mary-*  
4 *land, having, by their concurrent acts, incorporated a com-*  
5 *pany, by the title of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Com-*  
6 *pany, for the purpose of extending, by one continued canal, a*  
7 *line of inland navigation, from the tide water of the river Po-*  
8 *tomac, by the City of Pittsburg, on the river Ohio, to the*  
9 *southern shore of Lake Erie, so as to connect the navigable*  
10 *waters of the Chesapeake bay, with the Gulf of Mexico, and*  
11 *the great Northern Lakes; and the validity of the said acts be-*  
12 *ing made dependent, by the terms thereof, upon the assent*  
13 *of Congress, who have exclusive legislation over the territory*  
14 *of the District of Columbia, within which, the said canal must*  
15 *begin or terminate: Now, the said acts are hereby ratified and*  
16 *confirmed, to the same extent, in all respects, pertaining to*  
17 *the authority of the Government of the United States, as if*

18 the said acts were, by distinct sections, herein expressly re-  
19 peated, and clause by clause re-enacted.

1       **SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That, should the state  
2 of Virginia or Maryland desire, at any time, to avail itself of  
3 the right secured to it, by the twenty-first section of the act  
4 aforesaid, to take and continue a canal, from any point of the  
5 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, to any other point within the  
6 territory of the District of Columbia, on application to the  
7 President of the United States, by the Executive of the State,  
8 the President is authorized and empowered to depute three  
9 skilful commissioners of the United States' corps of Engi-  
10 neers, to survey, and examine so much of the route of such  
11 canal, as may affect in any manner, the navigation of the  
12 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The said commissioners, or a  
13 majority of them, shall ascertain, as far as practicable, wheth-  
14 er the canal proposed to be constructed by the State afore-  
15 said, will injure or impede the navigation of the Chesapeake  
16 and Ohio Canal, and report to the President of the United  
17 States the facts and reasons on which they may ground their  
18 judgment thereupon; which report shall be submitted to the  
19 Congress of the United States, at their session next ensuing  
20 the date thereof: and if the report shall affirm that the said  
21 canal may be cut in the manner proposed, as aforesaid; with-  
22 out impeding or injuring the navigation of the Chesapeake  
23 and Ohio Canal, and Congress shall approve the same, the  
24 judgment therein contained shall be conclusive.